



<b>IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE</b>	<i>Application No.</i>	10/050,848
	<i>Filing Date</i>	18 January 2002
	<i>First Named Inventor</i>	Norman G. ANDERSON
	<i>Group Art Unit</i>	1634
	<i>Examiner Name</i>	Frank Wei Min Lu, Ph. D.
	<i>Attorney Docket No.</i>	2316-148
<i>Title of the Invention:</i> <b>DETECTION AND CHARACTERIZATION OF MICROORGANISMS</b>		

**AMENDMENT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

**RECEIVED**  
JAN 27 2003  
TECH CENTER 1600, 2000

In response to the Office Action mailed October 25, 2002, please amend the subject application as follows:

In the Claims:

Amend claims 1, 18, and 37 as follows.

1. (Amended) An ultracentrifuge tube comprising an upper region, a middle region and a lower region wherein an inner diameter of said upper region is larger than an inner diameter of said middle region, wherein (i) an inner diameter of said middle region is larger than an inner diameter of said lower region or (ii) the inner diameter of said middle region is the same as the inner diameter of said lower region, wherein that inner diameter of the lower region and middle region having the same inner diameter is small enough to trap an air bubble between two layers of aqueous liquid such that the air bubble will keep said two layers of